

**Commission to Evaluate the Effectiveness and Future of the Premium
Assistance Program
(RSA 126-A:5-e, HB 1696, Ch. 13:12, Laws of 2016)**

**Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2016**

Senator Bradley called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Sen. Jeb Bradley, Sen. Dan Feltes, Rep. Cindy Rosenwald, Rep. Stephen Schmidt, Lisa Guertin, Richard Cornell, Michael Rose, Deb Fournier for Comm. Meyers, Wilkie for Patterson, P. Travis Harker, MD, and Peter Burwen. Absent: Rep. Umberger, Mr. Abikoff and Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Bradley suggested after the next meeting that the commission wait for guidance from Washington before meeting further.

Deb Fournier presented an overview of NHHPP on behalf of DHHS.

Senator Feltes asked if co-pay was affecting utilization rates. Response: DHHS is trying to get an answer to that, but probably not for 2016. Also asked about causes for disenrollment.

P. Travis Harker, MD – Evidence if providers are not collecting co-pays? DHHS doesn't track.

Rosenwald/Bradley/Feltes asked for more information on reasons for disenrollment, e.g., income rising, other coverage, etc. DHHS will look at how to track and evaluate.

Ms. Guertin asked why medically frail numbers are rising. Bradley asked percentage that is able-bodied with children. Thirty percent of enrollers have children.

Dr. Harker asked average length of coverage in program.

Sen. Bradley suggested NHID might be able to evaluate rates across carriers.

Rep. Rosenwald asked for rate change data vs. other states.

Dr. Harker asked about enrollment in BCCP, pregnant women and Corrections. DHHS examining to look for savings.

Steve Ahnen, Paula Minnehan, NHHA – Reiterated hospital support for program. The way to make sure people get right care at right time and place. Rates of uninsurance dropped from 9% to 6%, 53% drop in uninsured hospital admissions, 46% drop in uninsured ER visits, 48% drop in uninsured outpatient service utilization. NHHPP necessary for SUD treatment infrastructure. Need to fund it equitably going forward.

Rep. Rosenwald asked for total utilization rates. Response that carriers might be better able to get that information.

Sen. Feltes asked if Mr. Ahnen had insight into new administration's plans for Medicaid Expansion. Unknown.

Dr. Harker – Are members having trouble collecting co-pays? Mr. Ahnen has not heard that but thinks many hospitals have just written them off.

Jim Potter, NHMS – Spoke with Rep. Tom Price. Thinks the money for expansion might be stable, and several plans might be raised in Congress with a conference likely.

Sen. Bradley – After next meeting, wait until March to meet again.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Cindy Rosenwald, Clerk